

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ damage to bone, cartilage, connective tissues, skin, mucous membranes, epithelium or teeth, comprising administering a protein of the TGF- β family, wherein said protein is encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,

(b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,

(c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2, and

(d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the mature protein with amino acids 382-501 according to SEQ ID NO:2,
to a patient in need of such treatment.

7. (Currently amended) A method for improving wound healing and tissue regeneration of connective tissues, skin, mucous membranes, bone, cartilage, teeth and epithelium, comprising administering a protein of the TGF- β family, wherein said

protein is encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
 - (b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2, and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the mature protein with amino acids 382-501 according to SEQ ID NO:2,
- to a patient in need of such treatment.

8. (Withdrawn) An antibody or antibody fragment which binds to a protein of the TGF- β family, wherein said protein is encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- (b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,
- (c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2, and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the mature protein with amino acids 382-501 according to SEQ ID NO:2.

9. (Withdrawn) An antibody or antibody fragment which binds to a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2 or biologically functional parts thereof.

10. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ damage to connective tissues, skin, mucous membranes, or epithelium or for use in connection with dental implants, comprising administering a protein of the TGF- β family, wherein said protein is encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,

(b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,

(c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 or biologically functional parts thereof,

(d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the mature protein with amino acids 382-501 according to SEQ ID NO:2, and

(e) a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:13,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising administering a matrix, carrier, diluent and/or filler along with said protein of the TGF- β family.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting or reducing osteoporosis or arthrosis, comprising administering a protein of the TGF- β family, wherein said protein is encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,

(b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,

(c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 or biologically functional parts thereof, and

(d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the mature protein with amino acids 382-501 according to SEQ ID NO:2, and

(e) a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:13,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, further comprising administering a matrix, carrier, diluent and/or filler along with said protein of the TGF- β family.

14. (Previously presented) A method for inducing angiogenesis, comprising administering a protein of the TGF- β family, wherein said protein is encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- (b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,
- (c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 or biologically functional parts thereof, and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the mature protein with amino acids 382-501 according to SEQ ID NO:2, and
- (e) a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:13,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising administering a matrix, carrier, diluent and/or filler along with said protein of the TGF- β family.